

Hongkong, 17. May, 1859.

My dear Dr. Gray,

I wrote to you last evening, in acknowledgement of the very interesting and liberal present of plants and books you were so kind as to send me, and have now made up a small parcel containing the last of the duplicates in my possession. If it is not so interesting or perhaps as extensive as my first set, I ask you to believe that, had I the materials at hand, I should have only been too glad to make a better return for your good news & liberality. There are however some of our oaks, which you probably do not possess - and certainly some few good plants. I cannot find a single vessel at present laid on either for New York or Boston, but a friend of mine has been so kind as to offer to take charge of it;

and I am sure General Keenan,  
U. S. Consul here, will forward it  
the moment an opportunity offers.  
I am sorry to have to inform you that  
I am at once to proceed to Canton.  
There is scarcely any station here wh.  
is so unsatisfactory for a botanist, and  
I can do nothing in the way of collecting.  
In fact I must occupy my time in  
arranging and preparing your own  
and other contributions to my her-  
barium. I have however made a  
formal application for a Vice Consul-  
ship in Japan, and if I am successful  
I hope I shall have an opportunity of  
making up for the forced idleness in  
the way of collecting, now before me.  
With respect to any plants from  
N. America, I can only say that  
Cupuliferæ would be particularly wel-  
come - and that West Indian ferns  
are very badly represented in my  
herbarium. Those of the Northern States

I have most of - but not the Californian.  
Of course the rarer plants of the  
Western States California, Mexico  
& Oregon, I am not likely to have got.  
If you have any duplicates too of  
the rarer families of N. Europe  
they would be most acceptable, as  
would U. S., West Indian or Asiatic  
Grasses - all determined. But I  
am bound to say what you have  
hitherto sent me are far more than  
a fair equivalent for any contri-  
butions of mine to your herbarium.  
Remember me kindly to Mr.  
Wright, and pray believe me  
to be,

My dear Dr. Gray,  
Yours very sincerely  
A. S. HARRIS.